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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,790	10/19/2001	Todd J. Mortier	7528.0003-01	6743

22852 7590 04/18/2005

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EXAMINER

WILLSE, DAVID H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3738

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/981,790

Applicant(s)

MORTIER ET AL.

Examiner

Dave Willse

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 59-62, 64, 66-68, 83 and 84 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 64, 66, 67 and 83 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 59-62, 68 and 84 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1-5-05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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The Supplemental Amendment received on January 28, 2005, was **not** entered because supplemental replies are not entered as a matter of right except as provided in 37 CFR 1.111(a)(2)(ii). The Supplemental Amendment is clearly not limited to placement of the application in condition for allowance.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 64, 66, 67, and 83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alferness, US 5,702,343, which discloses positioning a passive device (column 3, lines 36-38) under the parietal pericardium (column 3, lines 66-67) so as to alter the geometry of the cardiac wall throughout the cardiac cycle by virtue of the device thickness shifting the cardiac wall inwardly from the parietal pericardium and the device material (and thickness) altering the dynamic response characteristics of the cardiac wall, the device, and the parietal pericardium in combination. The Alferness passive device draws together leaflets of the *in situ* valve to promote closure of said valve (column 1, lines 25-30; column 5, lines 26-44).

Claims 59-62, 68, and 84 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant's remarks have been considered. The Applicant contends that the Alferness patent "passages do not disclose or otherwise suggest a device that acts on the valve or

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closes the valve” (page 3, lines 8-9, of the Applicant’s Request for Reconsideration received on January 5, 2005). Alferness indicates that “[r]educed cardiac dilation can cause reduction in the problems associated with cardiac dilation such as arrhythmias and valvular leakage” (column 5, lines 39-41) and discloses embodiments in which “the predetermined size can be adjusted for size reduction as the cardiac size is reduced” (column 4, lines 9-11 and 47-51). The Applicant does not explain how the Alferness device reduces valvular leakage, if not by drawing together leaflets of the *in situ* valve. The Applicant argues that Alferness “does not explicitly disclose altering the geometry of the cardiac wall throughout the cardiac cycle” (page 3, lines 24-25, of said Request for Reconsideration). One definition of the term “geometry” is “[c]onfiguration” (*Webster’s II New Riverside University Dictionary*, 1984), and the configuration or arrangement of the cardiac wall and the parietal pericardium is clearly altered (throughout the cardiac cycle) by the placement of an Alferness cardiac reinforcement device between these two natural structures. Moreover, “[i]t is applicant’s burden to precisely define the invention, and not the [examiner’s]” (*In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1056, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1029 (Fed. Cir. 1997)).

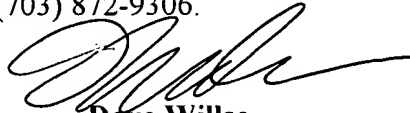
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Willse whose telephone number is (571) 272-4762. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday and often on Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, can be reached at (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Willse', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dave Willse
Primary Examiner
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